

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00543 121616Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EURE-00 OMB-01 /083 W

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P R 121515Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8401

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0543

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, XF, FI

SUBJECT: PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY INCREASING IN FINLAND

REF: (A) HELSINKI 3119, DEC 28, 1973; (B) HELSINKI A-182,
OCTOBER 24, 1974.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SINCE THE TIME OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S SPEECH IN
NOVEMBER 1973 WHEN HE TURNED FINLAND'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY
A FEW DEGREES IN FAVOR OF THE PALESTINIANS, FINNISH ACTION --
UNTIL THE PAST MONTH--HAS BEEN LARGELY RESTRICTED TO
CHANGES IN THE WORDING OF JOINT COMMUNIQUEES MAKING THEM
MORE IN ACCORD WITH ARAB AND SOVIET INTERPRETATIONS OF
UN RESOLUTIONS ON ME.

2. RECENT FLURRY OF ACTIVITY STARTED WITH VISIT TO
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00543 121616Z

FINLAND OF PLO DELEGATION IN MID-FEBRUARY. DELEGATION

WAS LED BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF PALESTINE PEACE AND SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE ABDULLAH EL HURANI. DELEGATION INCLUDED SAAD MOHAMMAD AND FADEL NAHA DESCRIBED AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, ALL THREE BELONG TO PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE. VISIT WAS TIED TO ME SEMINAR IN HELSINKI ARRANGED BY COMMUNIST-FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLICITY FOR DELEGATION WAS LARGELY CONFINED TO COMMUNIST PRESS.

3. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AND POSSIBLY AS RESULT OF VISIT, A FINLAND-PALESTINE SOCIETY WAS ESTABLISHED. RADICAL-LEFT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC M.P. TELLERVO KOIVISTO WAS MADE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW SOCIETY. SHE WAS QUOTED AS CLAIMING THAT SOCIETY "ONLY AGAINST THOSE GOVERNMENT--NOT PEOPLES--WHICH DO NOT OBSERVE UN DECISIONS". KOIVISTO ALSO SAID THAT SOCIETY "STRIVES TO INFLUENCE FINLAND TO RECOGNIZE PLO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". VICE CHAIRMEN OF SOCIETY ARE RADICAL CENTRE PARTY MEMBER MATTI EKKONEN (SON OF PRESIDENT KOKKENON) AND HARD-LINE COMMUNIST HELGE RONTU.

4. THIS WEEK COMMUNIST-FRONT WORLD PEACE COUNCIL, WHICH HEADQUARTERED IN HELSINKI, IS ARRANGING PALESTINE SOLIDARITY WEEK. ACCORDING TO WPC SECRETARY GENERAL ROMESH CHANDRA, MAIN THEMES WILL BE "FOCUSING ATTENTION ON UN PALESTINE RESOLUTIONS AND THE FIGHT TO HAVE MORE GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZE PLO AS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ARABS IN PALESTINE". FINLAND-PALESTINE SOCIETY IS ENGAGING IN PARALLEL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

5. COMMUNIST KANSAN UUTiset TODAY CARRIES STORY QUOTING KOIVISTO TO EFFECT THAT FINLAND-PALESTINE SOCIETY IS IN EARLY STAGES OF PREPARING FOR ITS GREAT GOAL, AN INTERNATIONAL PALESTINE MEETING IN HELSINKI IN MAY 1975--AT WHICH "ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST ARAB POPULATION IN PALESTINE" WOULD BE INVESTIGATED. KANSAN UUTiset ADDS THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING IS ROUGHLY SAME AS THAT OF "CHILE TRIBUNAL". END UNCLASSIFIED.

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PAGE 03 HELSIN 00543 121616Z

6. BEGIN XGDS-1.

SWEDISH PARTY M.P. AND VICE CHAIRMAN PER STENBACK, WHO ALSO VICE CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, TODAY TOLD POLOFF THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE LARS LINDEMAN HAD RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE SEND "STUDY GROUP" TO ME WITH PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH PLO,

RELIEVING GOF OF NEED TO DO THIS. STENBACK
CLAIMED THAT HE HAD INSISTED THAT SUCH GROUP GO NOT
ONLY ALSO BUT FIRST TO ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO STENBACK,
COMMITTEE WILL SEND GROUP UNDER COVER OF VISIT TO
FINNISH UN TROOPS IN CYPRUS AND ME, BUT ROUTE GROUP
THROUGH BIRUT SO THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND COMMUNIST
MEMBERS WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY MEET WITH PLO REPRE-
SENTATIVES. STENBACK MAINTAINED THAT HE WOULD REFUSE
PARTICIPATE IN TRIP. COMMENT: IT IS LIKELY THAT
YOUNG RADICAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATS SEE PALESTINIAN ISSUE
AS THE NEW "SEXY" ONE, AND THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN
GENERAL DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR LESS ACTIVE THAN
KEKKONEN AND CENTRE PARTY OR THEIR FELLOW SWEDISH
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. END XGDS-1.
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